

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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NOVENA
TO
THE HOLY SPIRIT

WITH PRAYERS FROM THE MISSAL
AND SHORT REFLECTIONS

By
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FOREWORD

The most acclaimed and significant religious and international event to take place in 1962 is the Second Vatican Council. Pope John XXIII attributed the inspiration for this universal renewal of faith and morals and love to the Holy Spirit. He announced that the ideal of this Ecumenical Council is expressed in the inspired words of the Apostle, St. Paul, teacher of truth to the whole world, "We are to follow the truth in a spirit of charity and so grow up in everything into a due proportion with Christ who is our head. On him all the body depends; it is organized and unified by each contact with the source which supplies it; and thus each limb receiving the active power it needs achieves its growth, building itself up through charity." (Ephes. 4, 15-16)

Because there is required for the fruitfulness of the Council a supernatural spirit, Pope John has urged all Catholics to make public and private novenas to the Holy Spirit for the intentions and success of this extraordinary gathering of the Hierarchy from all parts of the world. As in the beginning of

Nihil Obstat:

ARTHUR J. SCANLAN, S.T.D.,
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Archbishop of New York

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time the Holy Spirit moved over the waters to bring forth order in the material creation so in our day may the same Spirit touch the minds and hearts of men everywhere and bring forth wisdom, understanding and love in the worship and service of the one true God.

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity—the Love that binds God the Father to his Son, Jesus Christ—draws us to God and to each other in love. He turns our thoughts, words and deeds to God and enables us to do God's work. But the Holy Spirit does not move us against our wills. He does not force us to do what he wishes. He vivifies our souls, speaks to our hearts, strengthens us in our good impulses, urges us to do God's will and to love our neighbor.

With the hope of encouraging prayer for the General Council, of promoting a deep abiding love for the Holy Spirit, a habit of going to him for our many daily needs, the Paulist Press offers this new edition of Father Burke's novena which has been so popular for many years. If we speak in prayer to the Spirit of God directly and seek his gifts for ourselves and for each other, we shall be united in living faith, ardent hope and fervent love. "Ask and you shall receive" is as true now as it was when Christ assured his disciples.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Every day the devotion is opened with the prayer, "Come, Holy Ghost": then the hymn, "Come, Thou Holy Paraclete," is recited. Consideration is given to the reflections: the devotion ends with the recitation of the special prayer.

Priest: Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

People: And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

LET US PRAY

Priest and People: O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit / dost instruct the hearts of Thy faithful / grant by the same Holy Holy Spirit / we may ever know what is right and ever rejoice in His consolation / through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

SEQUENCE

(MASS OF PENTECOST)

People:

Come, Thou Holy Paraclete,
And from Thy celestial seat
Send Thy light and brilliancy.

Father of the poor, draw near:
Giver of all gifts be here:
Come, the soul's true radiancy.

Come, of comforters the best,
Of the soul the sweetest guest,
Come in toil refreshingly.

Thou in labor rest most sweet,
Thou art shadow from the heat,
Comfort in adversity.

O Thou light most pure and blest,
Shine within the inmost breast
Of Thy faithful company.

Where Thou art not, man hath naught:
Every holy deed and thought
Comes from Thy divinity.

What is soiled, make Thou pure:
What is wounded, work its cure:
What is parchéd, fructify.
What is rigid, gently bend:
What is frozen, warmly tend:
Strengthen what goes erringly.

Fill Thy faithful, who confide
In Thy power to guard and guide,
With Thy sevenfold mystery.

Here Thy grace and virtue send:
Grant salvation in the end,
And in heaven felicity.

Amen. Alleluia.

FIRST DAY

The Holy Spirit

Priest: The Apostles did not have faithful love for Jesus Christ until the Holy Spirit came and gave it to them.

The Holy Spirit alone can give it to us. Our devotion to Him is of supremest importance. He is the source of all love: the soul of our prayers. "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us." The Council of Trent declares: "The Holy Spirit is the very soul of our prayers. He inspires them and makes them always acceptable."

The Holy Spirit dwells in my soul. He is infinite Love: the Love that unites the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Himself in the one Godhead. He dwells and works within us to build us up to the stature of Jesus Christ. He distributes the

merits of Christ. On His guidance should be shaped our every thought and desire and work.

He lives personally, intimately, with the soul that welcomes Him and is thoughtful of Him.

He finds its love fit soil in which He implants certain gifts or dispositions whence it brings forth Christ in itself and as itself.

LET US PRAY

People: O God, Who didst give the Holy Spirit to Thine Apostles / grant to Thy people the fruit of their loving prayer / that, where Thou hast given faith / there also Thou mayest bestow peace. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the same Spirit / world without end. Amen.

SECOND DAY

The Gift of Fear

Priest: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. As the love of God increases in the soul, the fear of God also increases. It is not a servile fear. It is not a fear that drives to service through hope of reward, or to penance through fear of punishment. It

is an appreciation of God's majesty and our own nothingness. The soul knows its weakness. It fears to fail in duty: to miss opportunity, to give offense to God. It fears it does not do enough, because it does so little. The more it loves, the more it fears the fuller coming of the overpowering love of God. It cannot bear it: yet it must possess it, or the soul will die.

As the Holy Spirit increases our knowledge of God, He purifies and deepens our sense of fear: till fearing with anxious love, we not only will not sin, but eagerly seek to love more fully.

LET US PRAY

People: O God, Who dost manifest Thine almighty power chiefly in showing pardon and pity / increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy / that we, running the way toward the attainment of Thy promises / may be made partakers of Thy heavenly treasures. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

THIRD DAY

The Gift of Piety

Priest: Love would not warm us if we thought of God simply as our Creator. The

first prayer is "Our Father, Who art in heaven." We must learn to know God, to pray to Him, to trust Him as our Father, infinite in His daily providence, in His tenderness, in His intimate care.

We must be as frank with Him as with an earthly parent. In His presence must we live. As His children we must strive to cooperate with Him. Complaint, criticism, exception to His will, should have no part in us. Our fear is the fear of children who live in their Father's house as their own.

That house is our soul. Therein He lives with us. By the gift of piety the Holy Spirit enables us to realize this.

LET US PRAY

People: Almighty, everlasting God, Who, in the abundance of Thy loving kindness / doth exceed both the merits and the desires of those who pray unto Thee / pour down upon us Thy mercy / forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid / and granting us those good things which our prayer does not presume to ask. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

FOURTH DAY

The Gift of Knowledge

Priest: We never know even the simplest truth of created things unless we line up that truth with God. Our information is insufficient, unrelated to its own origin.

The evil and injustice of the world, untempered by faith in God, tend to cynicism and despair. The beauty and pleasure of the world, unenlightened by God, lead to lust and disappointment and death.

The universe is for us what we make it. Formed to the image and likeness of God, we also create for ourselves. To be willing and strong enough to take ourselves out of its lesser confines and place it in right relation to true knowledge is light and wisdom and peace.

To break the bars of what affection desires, pride craves, of what self seemingly cannot be happy without, to see always the first in the last, is, indeed, to be free.

But such a knowledge comes from God alone; because God alone is the true center, the one Creator. Through the Holy Spirit He created. The same Holy Spirit dwells in us, to give us that knowledge of created things and of God which is also the highest knowledge of self.

LET US PRAY

People: In Thy bounty, O Lord, we beseech Thee / pour forth into our hearts the Holy Ghost / by Whose wisdom we were created, and by Whose providence we are guided. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the same Spirit, world without end. Amen.

FIFTH DAY

The Gift of Counsel

Priest: Many use every means to learn the future; they even sacrifice much peace of mind for it.

The future is God's alone. He has reserved it for Himself. Piety leads us to abandon ourselves to God: to make self the instrument of His will: the agent of His glory. Thus is self fulfilled.

In the uncertainty of judgment, the conflict of interest, the warfare of emotion, the strife of duties, our soul yearns to know just what God would have us do: what God wishes us to decide. This is a daily need; a need that arises many times in the day.

The Holy Spirit awaits our attention. He is within. Thoughtful consultation with Him will bring the true answer. By habit we can become His faithful disciples and always know what it is the Lord would have us do.

LET US PRAY

People: Almighty and eternal God, give unto us an increase of faith, hope and charity / and, that we may be worthy to gain what Thou dost promise / make us to love what Thou commandest. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

SIXTH DAY

The Gift of Fortitude

Priest: We realize clearly the vast difference between resolution and accomplishment. As an intention, the following of Christ is altogether inviting and comforting: as a practical, everyday life it is distasteful, difficult, uninviting. "This people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me."

To have the courage, in the face of our own self and of the world, to follow that which we know God would have us do, requires a constant grace. This discipline of the will cannot be achieved except by the direct, abiding help of the Holy Spirit.

In this sense of our weakness lies our strength. Honesty with self drives us to Him. By the gift of fortitude He supplements our weak wills. He will remove that deadening content with pious thoughts: that satisfaction

with devotions and external observances. Sacrifice is His inspiration, opportunity His call, the highest His appeal.

Thus through the Holy Spirit we can, not only in thought but in reality, make ourselves one with the active, the all-perfect Christ.

LET US PRAY

People: Of Thy mercy, O Lord, we beseech Thee / grant us the mind ever to think and to do what is right / that we, who have no being apart from Thee / may live according to Thy will. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY

The Gift of Understanding

Priest: The most efficient incentive to love is the esteem in which one is held by the beloved.

When we begin to know even slightly what God has done for us: to what divine partnership He has raised the soul: how He has ordered all things sweetly from beginning to end, we cannot but love more ardently and strive more valiantly.

The understanding of the mysteries of God's purpose, hidden from the beginning, yet revealed to us, would overpower and confound, if unaccompanied by the supporting light of the Holy Spirit. Since they are revealed, we are obliged to ponder, to study, to understand. The mystery of the ever-adorable Trinity: of our creation and redemption in Jesus Christ: of our oneness with Him through the Holy Spirit: of the Food of which they that eat shall never hunger: of the Sacrifice of the Mass: of the universal motherhood of Our Lady—these are the solid meat which nourish the virile Christian life.

By the gift of understanding the Holy Spirit makes these intelligible, practical truths to us, that we, by some means, may apprehend wherein we also are apprehended by Christ Jesus.

LET US PRAY

People: O God, grant that the Paraclete, Who proceeds from Thee / may illumine our minds, and lead us, as Thy Son promised, into all truth. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the same Spirit, world without end. Amen.

EIGHTH DAY

The Gift of Wisdom

Priest: The very richesses and treasures of God's love cause the soul, at times, to draw back. God claims so much that He asks all. And that we are unwilling to give. His treasures are not bought save at a great price. The soul shrinks from paying it.

The nearer one draws to Him, the harder life becomes. The old peace passes. Suffering, misfortune seem to mark those who love God.

To be a faithful lover it is necessary not only to know: not only to understand, but to taste how sweet is the love of God. For what we have a liking, that we do. To love the word of God, and to trust it, to find therein our delight is wisdom. It is not the wisdom of our everyday world. Sense, time, passionate desire, limited but keen vision hold us back from such wisdom.

Only the Light of God Himself can show us that sense and desire and human sight will of themselves alone lead to darkness.

To see as God sees: to trust and delight in His love: to be joyful in Him and not simply in ourselves or creatures or created things, this is the supreme gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of Wisdom.

LET US PRAY

People: O God, Who hast prepared for those that love Thee / such good things as eye hath not seen / pour into our hearts such tender love for Thee / that, loving Thee in all things and above all things / we may obtain Thy promises which surpass all desire. / Through Jesus Christ Our Lord / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

NINTH DAY

The Sanctifier

Priest: O Holy Spirit, I wish not to forget the Giver, in thinking of the gifts.

Thou didst decree in the silent will of God, and all things were created. Invisibly, Thou didst overshadow the Virgin Mary, and Christ, the Son of God, our Redeemer, was conceived.

In tongues of flame Thou camest upon the Apostles, and Thy Church was brought forth, and lives.

In the soul of every faithful one, Thou dost begin, Thou dost complete the work of sanctification.

Ceaselessly art Thou building up, through men, the Christ, and fulfilling the glory of the Father. Love labors for that which it loves.

To Thee I owe every inspiration, every good deed accomplished, every help I have been to others, every ray that I will add to the glory of God.

To ears that are open, Thou speakest: to eyes watchful, Thou revealest: to hands ready, Thou givest power. Thou dost inform me: possess me. Every day will I be attentive to Thy voice.

I will fear Thy presence, yet abide therein with reverence and with trust. I will seek Thy will and the strength from Thee to carry it into action. I will know myself as part of Thy creation: and study Thy mysteries as the revelation of Thy purpose.

I will love Thee as my wisdom, knowing that Thou wilt build me up, incorporate me into Him, the Perfect Man, my God and my Savior, Jesus Christ.

LET US PRAY

People: O God, the strength of those who hope in Thee / look favorably upon our petitions / and since without Thee human frailty avails not/ grant the help of Thy grace, that in following Thy commands / we may please Thee both in intention and achievement. / Through Our Lord Jesus Christ / Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity with the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to Thee my understanding, heart, and will, my whole being for time and for eternity. May my understanding be always submissive to Thy heavenly inspirations, and to the teaching of the Catholic Church, of which Thou art the infallible guide; may my heart be ever inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever conformed to the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom with the Father and Thee be honor and glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

O Holy Spirit of God, take me as Your disciple; guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands, that they may do no evil; cover my eyes, that they may see it no more; sanctify my heart, that evil may not dwell within me. Be my God, be my guide! Wherever You lead me I will go; whatever You forbid me I will renounce; and whatever You command me, in Your strength I will do. Lead me, then, unto the fullness of Your truth. Amen.

OFFERING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

We offer ourselves, body and soul, to You, eternal Spirit of God! We adore You, great God, and acknowledge Your dominion over us. You are the light and strength of our souls. In You we live and have our being. We desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace, and we pray with all our hearts to be kept from the smallest sins against You. Make us faithful in every thought, and grant that we may always listen to Your voice, watch for Your light, and follow your gracious inspirations. We cling to You and give ourselves to You. We ask You, by Your compassion, to watch over us in our weakness. We implore You, Holy Spirit, Helper of our weakness, so to keep us in Your grace that we may never sin against You. Give us grace, O Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears."

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE CHURCH

O Holy Spirit, Creator, be propitious to the Catholic Church; and by Thy heavenly power make it strong and secure against the attacks of its enemies; and renew in charity and grace the spirit of Thy servants, whom Thou hast anointed, that they may glorify

Thee and the Father and His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth, come into our hearts; shed the brightness of Thy light on all nations, that they may be one in faith and pleasing to Thee.

COME HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit! Lord of light!
From thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure, beaming radiance give.
Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou light of all that live!
Thou, of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.
Light immortal! Light divine!
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill.

COME, HOLY GHOST, CREATOR BLEST

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come, with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.
O Comforter, to Thee we cry;
Thou heavenly Gift of God Most High;

Thou Fount of life and Fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above.
Praise we the Father and the Son,
And Holy Spirit with them One;
And may the Son in us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow.

LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(For Private Use)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, hear us.

Holy Spirit, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the World, have
mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father
and the Son,

Holy Spirit, coequal with the Father and
the Son,

Promise of the Father, most loving and
most bounteous,

Gift of the most high God,

Ray of heavenly light,

Have mercy on us.

Author of all good,
Source of the living water,
Consuming fire,
Burning love,
Spiritual Unction,
Spirit of truth and of power,
Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
Spirit of counsel and of fortitude,
Spirit of knowledge and of piety,
Spirit of the fear of the Lord,
Spirit of compunction and of penance,
Spirit of grace and of prayer,
Spirit of charity, peace and joy,
Spirit of patience, longanimity and goodness,
Spirit of benignity, mildness and fidelity,
Spirit of modesty, continence and chastity,
Spirit of adoption of the sons of God,
Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,
Who in the beginning didst move over the waters,
By Whose inspiration spoke the holy men of God,
Who didst overshadow Mary,
Who didst accomplish the Incarnation of the Son of God,
Who didst descend upon Him at His Baptism,
Who in the day of Pentecost didst appear in fiery tongues,

Have mercy on us.

By Whom we are also born again,
Who dwellest in us,
Who governest the Church,
Who fillest the whole world,

} Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst renew the face of the
earth, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

That Thou wouldst shed Thy light in our
minds,

That Thou wouldst write Thy law in our
hearts,

That Thou wouldst inflame us with the
fire of Thy love,

That Thou wouldst open to us the treas-
ure of Thy grace,

That Thou wouldst teach us to ask them
according to Thy will,

That Thou wouldst enlighten us with Thy
heavenly inspirations,

That Thou wouldst keep us to Thyself by
Thy powerful attractions,

That Thou wouldst grant to us the knowl-
edge alone necessary,

That Thou wouldst help us to love and
bear with each other,

That Thou wouldst lead us in the way of
Thy Commandments,

That Thou wouldst make us obedient to
Thy inspirations,

That Thou would teach us to pray,

} We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst clothe us with love
and compassion toward our brethren,
That Thou wouldst inspire us with a hor-
ror of evil,

That Thou wouldst direct us in the prac-
tice of good,

That Thou wouldst give us the grace of
all virtues,

That Thou wouldst cause us to persevere
in justice,

That Thou wouldst be Thyself our ever-
lasting reward,

We beseech Thee, hear us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, *have mercy on us, O Lord.*

Christ, hear us.

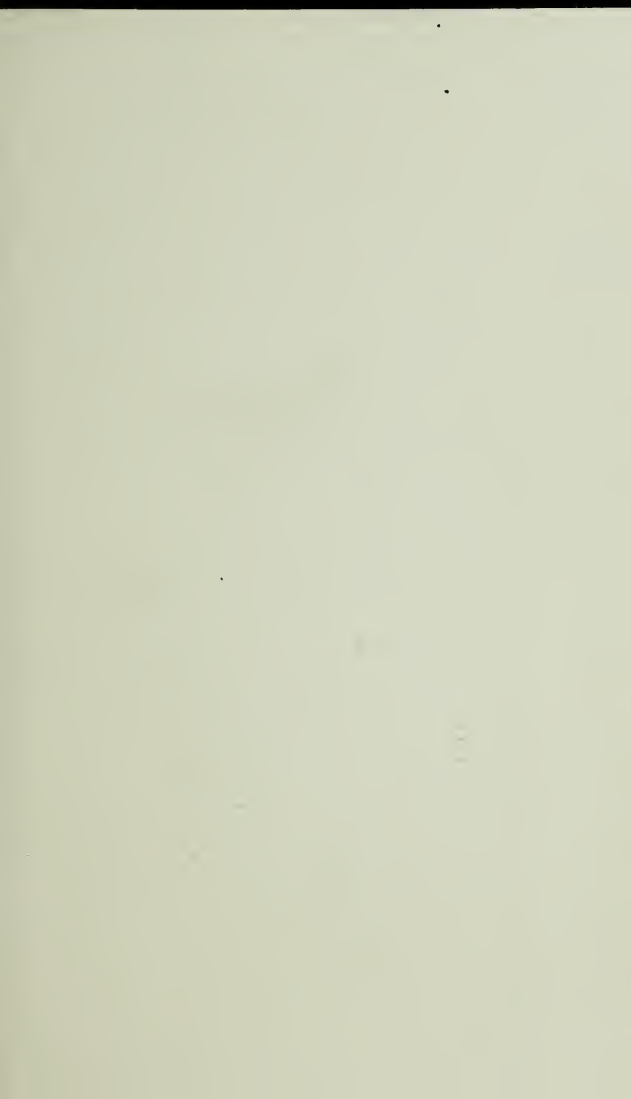
Christ, graciously hear us.

V. Create in us a clean heart, O Lord.

R. And renew a right spirit within us.

LET US PRAY

Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy divine spirit may enlighten, inflame and cleanse our hearts; that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew, and make us fruitful in good works. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



PRAYER
for the
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Holy Spirit of God, pour forth your gifts on the Ecumenical Council.

Renew the earth by granting a new Pentecost in our time.

Gently guide our Holy Father and the Fathers of the Council so that the light and power of the Gospel may spread throughout the world and the Church may accomplish its mission of bringing all men to Christ. Amen.